

REMARKS

Applicant elects with traverse to prosecute Group I, claims 1-17 and 26.

Applicant traverses the restriction. The present application is a national stage application of a PCT application. Therefore, the claims have Unity of Invention under 37 C.F.R. §1.475. The claims have a single general inventive concept, and there is a technical relationship among the claims that involves at least one common or corresponding technical feature which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art (MPEP 1893.03(d)).

The Examiner states that the claims lack Unity of Invention in view of Voss et al. (US 3859408). Claims 1 and 18 both recite a method of forming a hose that is cut to a desired length. Voss et al. discloses a method for making tubular articles that utilizes a continuous length of tubing. An uncured portion of a continuous length of tubing is first pulled into a mold. This uncured portion of tubing is then cured and pulled from the mold. While the cured portion of tubing is pulled from the mold, an uncured portion is drawn into the mold. The cured portion of tubing is then severed from the continuous length of tubing. In Voss et al., it is not possible to cut the tubing to a desired length as claimed because the tubing is on a continuous roll. Voss et al. pulls a continuous length of tubing, and in the claimed invention a precut length is drawn into the mold. Additionally, Voss et al. does not disclose curing the ends of the hose during the step of curing to finish the ends. Voss et al. discloses in column 1 that after setting, the length of the tubular carcass is removed from the mold, and the ends are trimmed to remove a distorted portion of the set article.

All the claims recite these common technical feature, and there is a single inventive concept. There is unity of invention. Therefore, the claims are not properly restricted. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests examination of claims 1-27.

No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

/Karin H. Butchko/

Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
Attorneys for Applicant
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: March 6, 2009